

# **Language Contact and the Homeland of Malay**

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## ***1. What does “homeland” mean?***

- The Malayic homeland
- The Malay homeland
- The homeland of Malay (2 angles)

## ***2. What is the current theory about the origin of Malay?***

- “Borneo as the Homeland of Malay” (Blust, Adelaar, Collins, Nothofer)

## ***3. What evidence is provided for the Borneo homeland hypothesis?***

- Diversity
- Archaisms

## ***4. What are some problems with this hypothesis?***

- Fails to distinguish between ‘Malay’ and ‘Malayic’
- Ignores the possibility of language shift
- Misidentifies Land Dayak elements as ‘archaisms’

## ***5. Other possible reasons for similarities between Borneo languages and Malay***

- Genetically related but not Malayic
- Substratum
- Borrowing
- (Back) migration

## 6. Indirect evidence—previous work

- Ngaju Dayak (Dempwolff, Dyen)
- Banjarese (Wolff)
- Mbaloh (Adelaar)
- Pontianak Malay (Collins)
- Brunei Malay (Prentice)
- Iban (Nothofer)

## 7. Linguistic evidence from a case study: Balai Berkuak

Orthography:

e: [ə]

é: [e]

ny: [ɲ]

ng: [ŋ]

mp, nt, ngk: [m<sup>p</sup>, n<sup>t</sup>, ng<sup>k</sup>], marked only when unexpected

bm, dn, gng: [b<sup>m</sup>, d<sup>n</sup>, g<sup>ŋ</sup>], marked only when unexpected

mb, nd, nyj, ngg: [m<sup>b</sup>, n<sup>j</sup>, n<sup>d</sup>, ŋ<sup>g</sup>]

q: glottal stop

lq, rq, yq: glottalized consonants

### 7.1. Phonology

#### 7.1.1. Complex oral-nasal consonants

7.1.1.1. *Prenasalized oral consonants*: Voiced to voiceless, occur syllable-finally.

Developed historically from allophones of voiceless stops following a nasalized vowel. Now marginally phonemic.

C → [prenas] / V \_\_\_ #  
[+stop]                      [+nas]  
[-nas]

After non-nasalized vowels:

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay
cirup [cirup] ‘grass’	asap [asap] ‘smoke’
kurét [kuret] ‘skin’	gigit [gigit] ‘bite’
ibuk [ibuk] ‘short’	masak [masak] ‘cook’

After nasalized vowels:

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay
nganap [ŋãṇãṁp] ‘hunt’	nguwap [ŋũwãṁp] ‘yawn’
rongét [roŋeṁt] ‘sky’	langit [laŋĩṁt] ‘sky’
onak [onãṁk] ‘child’	anak [anaṁk] ‘child’

Alternation is productive and occurs in recent loanwords:

ménit [meniṁt] ‘minute’ (Indonesian *menit*)

tomat [tomaṁt] ‘tomato’ (Indonesian *tomat*)

However, marginally phonemic:

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay
Ubéngk (*[ubek]) ‘personal name’	Seripont (*[səripot]) ‘personal name’
Curunt (*[curut]) ‘personal name’	
Ocamp (*[ocap]) ‘personal name’	
mpémp (*[mpep]) ‘soggy’	
mpéngk (*[mpek]) ‘croak’	

7.1.1.2. (Postnasalized orals: Gap. There were no historical oral-nasal clusters for them to develop from.)

7.1.1.3 Preoccluded nasal consonants: Voiced, occur syllable-finally. Developed historically as allophones of nasals when following a non-nasalized vowel. Now marginally phonemic.

C → [preoc] / V \_\_ #  
 [+nas] [-nas]

After non-nasalized vowels:

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay
ngorum [ŋoruᵇm] ‘night’	malam [malaᵇm] ‘night’
dagin [dagiᵈn] ‘flesh’	telan [təlaᵈn] ‘swallow;
turang [turaᵑn] ‘bone’	datang [dataᵑn] ‘come’

After nasalized vowels:

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay
tonam [tonã̃m] ‘plant’	nam [nã̃m] ‘six’
pongan [poŋã̃n] ‘thing’	tangan [taŋã̃n] ‘hand’
kadonang [kadonã̃ŋ] ‘swim’	senang [sɛnã̃ŋ] ‘pleased’

Process is productive and occurs in recent loanwords (both Kualan and Balai Berkuak Malay):

pélam [pela<sup>b</sup>m] ‘film’ (Indonesian *filem/pélem*)  
 bén [be<sup>d</sup>n] ‘music band’ (Indonesian *band [ben]*)  
 mesén [məse<sup>d</sup>n] ‘machine’ (Indonesian *mesin*)

However, marginally phonemic:

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay
Liton [lito <sup>d</sup> n] (*[lito <sup>d</sup> n]) ‘pers. name’	Mulong [mulon] (*[mulo <sup>g</sup> ŋ]) ‘name’
Iyum [iyu <sup>b</sup> m] (*[iyu <sup>b</sup> m]) ‘pers. name’	Udén [uden] (*[ude <sup>d</sup> n]) ‘name’
Codéng [code <sup>g</sup> ŋ] (*[code <sup>g</sup> ŋ]) ‘pers. name’	

7.1.1.4. *Postoccluded nasal consonants*: Voiced, occur syllable initially, high functional load. (Developed from homorganic nasal-oral clusters.) Like a falling diphthong; the more prominent / more sonorant element is the first, the second element is barely audible.

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay
onaq ‘child’ : ondaq ‘want’	gemok ‘fat’ : gembok ‘lock’
mo ‘you’ : mbo ‘sibling’	timbang ‘draw water’ : timbang ‘scale’
tamaq ‘enter’ : tambaq ‘grave’	tugu ‘monument’ : tunggu ‘watch over’
manaq ‘we’ : mandaq ‘despise’	pajang ‘show’ : panjang ‘long’
manoq ‘chicken’ : mandoq ‘burn’	
tadoq ‘smell’ : tandoq ‘horn’	
onya ‘person’ onyjan ‘porch’	
pongan ‘thing’ : pinggan ‘plate’	

### 7.1.2. Glottalized lateral

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay
Calalq ‘personal name’ Cungélq ‘personal name’ Bambélq ‘personal name’  cupélq ‘almost detached’ kodolq ‘having disproportionately short arms’ mpélq ‘to touch lightly with s.t.’ léléq ‘EXCL’ (Semandang)	Océq ‘personal name’ Utolq ‘personal name’ Cédolq ‘personal name’

## 7.2. Morphology

### 7.2.1. Affixation combinations

KE—PARTIAL REDUPLICATION—N—ROOT ‘so ADJ that...’

Kualan	ke-be-mbulo-néh
Balai Berkuak Malay	ke-be-mbodo-i
Gloss	KE-PART.RED-N-stupid-3SG-TOP
Free translation	‘he was so stupid that...’

- Equivalent affixes
- Same partial reduplication pattern
- Same concurrence of affixes
- Same morpheme order
- Same meaning

Sample sentence:

K	dah ke-be-m-bulo-néh-éh celup-néh tongan-néh ke-piing angkat
	PFCT KE-PART.RED-N-stupid-3SG-TOP dip-3SG hand-3SG to-water hot
BBM	dah ke-bem-bodo-i-téh, di-celup-i tanagan-nye ke-aiq panas
	PFCT KE-PART.RED-N-stupid-3SG-TOP hand-3SG-TOP OF-dip-3SG hand-3SG to water hot
	‘He was so stupid that he dipped his hand in hot water.’

### 7.2.2. Morphologically derived intense adjectives

#### ROOT—MEN—ROOT

##### Kualan

simple adj.	gloss	intensified adj.	gloss
pocah	broken	pocah-memocah	broken to pieces
koring	hard	koring-mengoring	hard as a rock
angat	hot	*angat-mengangat angat beranyoh	very hot
itam	black	itam-mengitam itam kelontum	filthy black pitch black

##### Balai Berkuak Malay

simple adj.	gloss	intensified adj.	gloss
pecah	broken	pecah-memecah	broken to pieces
keras	hard	keras-mengeras	hard as a rock
angat	warm	*angat-mengangat angat bedenting	very warm
itam	black	itam-mengitam itam legam	filthy black pitch black

- MEN- only occurs in this construction in both languages
- Same reduplication pattern
- Same order
- Same meaning
- Same distribution

NB: In both Kualan and Balai Berkuak Malay: *sori-menyori* ‘awfully sorry’

### **7.3. Syntax**

#### **7.3.1. Obligatory classifiers**

(NUM—CLASS—N)

Kualan	Balai Berkuak Malay	Gloss
dukah ikoq kuyuq (*dukah kuyuk)	duwaq ékoq asuq (*duwaq asuq)	two dogs
turoh ikoq guru	tige orang guru	three teachers
mpat itéq lading	mpat butiq piso	four knives
limaq lambar bojuh	limaq butiq baju	five clothes
nam batang rokoq	nam batang rokoq	six cigarettes
tujoh buwah rumah	tujoh buwah rumah	seven houses
lapan singkar pinggan	lapan butiq pinggan	eight plates
sembilan itéq nsangan	sembilan butiq cerite	nine stories

#### **7.3.2. Associative plural**

(3PL—NAME)

Kualan	k-opih dénaq katalq-éh?
B. Berkuak Malay	ke-mane sidaq katalq-téh?
	to-which 3PL Katalq-TOP
	Where have Katalq and her gang gone?

## ***8. Other arguments***

- No genetic classification of Malayic isolects has ever been achieved ('not classifiable'—Adelaar 2002)
- Settlement pattern doesn't support local origin for Malays (although it doesn't disprove it): Malay speakers inhabit coasts, mostly towns, and only recently the interior, like Austronesians in Papua or Malays in the Malay Peninsula
- Malays have been superior technologically, economically, and politically. This would explain why many Dayakic languages heavily influenced by Malay (cf. Aslian languages), no need to resort to untenable genetic explanations
- Process of Malayization has been going on for many centuries, possibly millennia ('90% of "Malays" are Islamized Dayaks' – B. Sellato)

## ***9. Arguments for (south-central) Sumatra:***

- All ethnic groups of this region speak Malayic languages, coast to coast, with no signs of substrate, including the most isolated groups in the interior
- Diversity is much greater than acknowledged (Riau Malay, Minang, Kerinci, Besemah, Orang Akit, etc.), and due mostly to internal change
- Varieties are 'classifiable' (Adelaar)
- Little history of Malayization (though one of Islamization)
- Oral traditions
- "Melayu" is here (MO-LO-YU mentioned as a kingdom in eastern Borneo by I Ching)
- Location of great Malay-speaking empire, Srivijaya (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries)
- Location of earliest inscriptions (7<sup>th</sup> century), and earliest mention of the word 'Melayu'

## ***10. Conclusions***

- The Malay homeland as well as the homeland of Malay were probably not in Borneo. Sumatra seems to be a far better candidate.
- The Malayic homeland may have been in Borneo, but the case is far from proven.